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in the leading nations of the Occidental world." The book is designed to serve as a text-book for advanced students. The author has applied a two-fold test to decide the relative space accorded to the various economists: (1) Discovery or development of points of theory; (2) influence on contemporaries and followers. In the light of these facts the book must be judged. One-sixth of the book is covered before the reader arrives at the beginning of a science of economics. In contrast with this he finds that only one brief chapter is devoted to "Recent Economic Thought in the United States." It would seem that the fragments gathered from social philosophy, the ethical and religious systems of the ancients and of the Middle Ages might have been condensed into briefer compass if that plan would have left more space to be devoted to modern theories. What this criticism really means, perhaps, is that another volume is necessary in order to offer an adequate treatment of modern theories. The author begins the discussion of the evolution of economics as a science by calling attention to some of the changes in social philosophy and by a review of the system of the physiocrats, with which Adam Smith was very familiar. He then devotes ample space to a presentation of the chief doctrines of the Classical School, beginning with those of Adam Smith and including the contributions of Malthus, Ricardo, Carey, Bastiat, Mill and Senior. The author's next task was to present the growing opposition to the Classical System and the lines of criticism which introduced the modern thinking in political economy. Emphasis began to be placed more upon income and consumption, and less upon wealth and production. Socialism emphasized better distribution and economic justice. Social reformers sought to remedy existing evils. The theory of evolution was bringing old abstract theories to the test of everyday, changing facts and relations. The economists themselves were reconstructing their own theories. In the midst of all these influences new schools of economic thought were developed. To these the author turns his attention very briefly. Jevons and the marginal utility concept, the Austrian School and subjective value theories, and recent thought in the leading countries of Europe are rapidly passed in review, after which in still briefer scope recent thought and its background in the United States are outlined, with mention of the most prominent doctrines and men.

ROBERT EMMET CHADDOCK.

Columbia University.

Hobson, J. A. *The Crisis of Liberalism: New Issues of Democracy.* Pp. xiv, 284. Price, 6s. London: P. S. King & Son.

The author signed the preface to this valuable scientific treatment of contemporary political, economic and social problems, just two years ago (December 1, 1909). Although much has happened in the meantime to change the present status of these fundamental problems,—especially as seen in the victories of Liberalism in Great Britain, the advance of progressive legislation in this country, and similar movements elsewhere,—the book referred to in this title is well worth reading by all who are interested in

present-day affairs, and merits re-reading by all actively engaged in the struggle for advancement.

The first third of the book is devoted to the political struggle. The Lords' veto in England holds the center of the stage. Special emphasis is placed upon this thesis: "The destruction of the veto must be accompanied or followed by other important reforms in our electoral institutions and by a measure which shall associate the people more directly with the art of government, by assigning to it that power of mandate which the Lords falsely pretend that it possesses."

Social and economic reforms are essential, but these cannot be secured without perfecting the constitutional machinery of democracy—without removing the obstructions in electoral and legislative institutions. But he insists that "There can be no more foolish error than to represent the veto of the House of Lords as the only, or even the chief barrier to the free realization of the will of the people in this country."

Many defects in constitutional machinery are pointed to and the injustices are numbered. Cabinet control and the caucus system come in for their share of attention. These must be reformed but a constructive plan covering the whole field must be evolved. The most important changes are as follows:

"The House of Commons must be made more accurately representative, and representative government must be supplemented by a measure of direct democratic control."

"In order to make the House of Commons representative of the will of the people it must be in direct and frequent contact with the needs, aspirations and experience of the whole people."

"Adult suffrage is the only practicable expedient for securing the required contact between representatives and people."

"With the same object of rendering the House of Commons a truer expression of the popular will, some form of proportional representation must be incorporated in our electoral system."

In addition to the above the author advocates "the destruction of the present plural vote" as an important change and "the payment of members and electoral expenses out of public funds."

The one additional reform to which much attention is given is the demand for referendum; "the only effective check upon these defects or abuses of representative government is a direct appeal to the people."

The author devotes a very considerable part of the book to a discussion of Liberalism contrasted with Socialism and treats a list of the problems of Applied Democracy.

JOHN LEE COULTER.

Washington, D. C.

Humphreys, John H. *Proportional Representation*. Pp. xxi, 431. Price, 5s. London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1911.

John H. Humphreys, the intelligent and enthusiastic secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of England, who went to South Africa to